
*Michigan PTA mobilizes the forces of school, home, and community in order
to ensure a quality education and nurturing environment for every child.*

MEMORANDUM

TO: *Members of the House Education Reform Committee*

FROM: *Samantha Phillips, VP of Children's Advocacy, Michigan PTA*

DATE: *October 24th, 2017*

RE: *Opposition to Senate Bill 574*

Michigan PTA stands opposed to Michigan SB 574. The bill would amend the Revised School Code to allow the payment of regional enhancement property tax revenue to a public school academy, which includes charter and cyber-charter schools. While the bill would have no fiscal impact on State government, it would negatively affect the distribution of enhancement millage revenue to school districts - diluting the funding for traditional community based public schools.

Michigan PTA opposes SB 574 and requests that Michigan Legislators consider the following:

- *Public School Academies (PSAs) are able to "select" their students, while traditional public schools are required by law to educate ALL children, meeting their educational needs (including those with special needs)*
- *the cost of educating a student attending a traditional public school far exceeds that of the cost of educating a student attending a cyber school*
- *PSAs do not have locally elected boards and are often run as for-profit entities*
- *PSAs in Michigan can legally be administered by for-profit management companies - Michigan tax dollars appropriated for public education should never be allocated to for-profit gain. Those tax dollars should be reinvested into classrooms to directly impact students*
- *What happens to the assets (purchased with millage enhancement money) when a PSA or cyber charter folds?*

Michigan PTA urges the House Education Reform Committee to reject Senate Bill 574 and instead enact legislation that will protect public school students by requiring PSA's receiving public tax dollars be held to the same transparency, accountability and governance as traditional community based public schools.

Thank you for your consideration, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

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